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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch)

EUROPE

Greater Rome and Greater Britain. By Sir C. P. Lucas. 184 pp. Index. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1912. 3s. 6d. 9 x 6.

Unique is the word which seems best to characterize this book. In brief, as stated by the author, "this book is intended to illustrate, by comparison with the Roman Empire, some features of the British Empire . . ." It is a story of the effect of science upon the progress of nations, with particular reference, of course, to the two empires mentioned. Geographic phenomena play a most significant rôle.

The author's point of view is stated in part on p. 54 in the following words: "It may be laid down in general that over and above communication, the main empire work of science is to make habitable places more habitable and uninhabitable places habitable." He then proceeds to find the natural causes that lend to the growth and strength of the Roman Empire and to compare these with the events that lend to the building of the British Empire. After comparing the respective periods of continuity, he endeavors to throw light upon the present status of the British Empire and to forecast its future.

The breadth of the point of view is indicated on page 167, where he challenges the statements so frequently made that tend to demonstrate how one cause alone has predominated in the upbuilding or breaking down of an empire: "What holds the empire together and what will hold it, if it is held, is an aggregate of considerations . . . none of which will hold the field exclusively." The book is filled with statements rich in meaning and is further enhanced by the fact that an Englishman who seems well versed in his subject has written it.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Histoire de l'expansion coloniale des peuples européens. Néerlande et Danemark (xvii^e et xviii^e siècles). Par Charles de Lannoy et Herman Vander Linden. vi and 487 pp. Maps. Henri Lamertin. Brussels, 1911. 9½ x 6.

Several years ago these distinguished demographers wrote on the colonial expansion of Spain and Portugal. In this second contribution to an important series, Prof. De Lannoy monographs the colonial system of the Netherlands and Prof. Vander Linden deals with the expansion of Denmark overseas. It is appropriate that these two countries are thus brought into association, for their colonial systems are strongly interrelated at home and abroad.

In this volume the authors are critical historians of a great epoch. They have sought out, with unflagging zeal, the motive which led men from familiar scenes to the conquest and the remaking of new lands. It is a brilliant theme of study and it is excellently handled.

The colonial history of Holland is familiar, its course is accessible in many volumes of state papers. But the Danish colonies are in far other case. How different is made manifest in the bibliography: that of the Netherlands, cited in this volume, fills fifteen pages; Denmark needs but two. In fact, Prof. Vander Linden's present monograph is not only the first authoritative history of the subject but is in effect the initial presentation in any form. Those who